

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ECONOMICS, ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS,
AND ADMINISTRATION

February 27, 2003

Jon C. Smith
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
402 W. Washington Street, W 274
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739

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Re: AB-55 (Sub 623X), CSX Transportation, Inc. – Abandonment
Exemption – in Putnam County, IN

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am writing in response to your letter dated December 4, 2002 to Ms. Heidi Basl of CSX Transportation (CSX) regarding the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) (NHPA) in the above-captioned case. As mentioned in the documentation provided to you by Ms. Basl, CSX requested authority from the Board to abandon a rail line in Cloverdale, Putnam County, Indiana. The Board authorized abandonment of this line in a decision served October 16, 2002. Abandonment authority allows the railroad to salvage track, ties and other railroad appurtenances, and to dispose of the right-of-way.

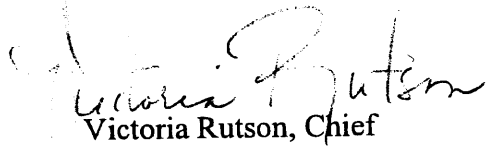
The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is the office within the Board responsible for conducting the environmental review process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, including the NHPA. SEA has investigated the record in this proceeding. We have also consulted with, and considered the views of interested persons and appropriate agencies to obtain additional information and comments regarding the potential impacts of the proposed abandonment on historic properties.

After reviewing all information gathered to date, SEA concurs with your determination that the rail line itself does not meet the *National Register of Historic Places* criteria because it does not date back to the period of significance of the adjacent Cloverdale Historic District (District). Also, we concur that the removal of the track would not diminish the integrity of the District.

SEA believes a determination of "no adverse effect" is appropriate for this project. As you requested in your letter to Ms. Basl, documentation of this finding in accordance with 36 CFR 800.11(e) is attached as Appendix A to this letter for your review. This notification of our determination of "no adverse effect" and the attached documentation supporting our finding evidences that the Board has taken into account the effects of the proposed abandonment on historic properties and has, therefore, satisfied its Section 106 responsibilities for this undertaking.

SEA is committed to ensuring proper completion of the Section 106 process and we look forward to working with you in the future. Please feel free to contact Phillis Johnson-Ball of my staff at 202-565-1530 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson".

Victoria Rutson, Chief

Section of Environmental Analysis